



October 29, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Notice

In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Seeks Comment
on the Commission's Rules Relating to High-Cost Universal Service Support and
the ETC Designation Process (CC Docket No. 96-45)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, October 28, 2003, Marie Guillory and Daniel Mitchell with the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) met with Bill Jack Gregg, State Consumer Advocate on the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, in Charleston, West Virginia. Also present at the meeting via conference call was Professor Dale Lehman, Director of the MBA Program in Telecommunications Management at Alaska Pacific University.

During the meeting the group discussed NTCA's positions related to issues concerning the portability of universal service support and the public interest test for designating eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) in rural incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) service areas. Prior to the meeting NTCA provided the six attached documents that were used as an outline for the presentation that took place during the meeting and conference call.

In accordance with the Commission's rules, an original and two copies of this letter are being filed with the Secretary's Office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact L. Marie Guillory at 703-351-2021.

Sincerely,

/s/ Daniel Mitchell
Daniel Mitchell
Senior Legal Counsel
Legal & Industry Division

cc: Billy Jack Gregg